

Mike Martin MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Carlos Hone
Head of Planning
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Royal Tunbridge Wells
TN1 1RS

25 April 2025

Dear Carlos

Re: Public Consultation on the proposed Main Modifications to the Tunbridge Wells Pre-Submission Local Plan

This consultation represents a final stage needed to allow Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to proceed with the adoption of a new Local Plan, which I welcome.

The Local Plan will provide much-needed homes for the Borough, informed by many years of diligent work engaging and consulting with residents to understand their preferences. It should be the keystone for deciding new housing development in the borough.

A Local Plan's fundamental purpose is to ensure new housing happens in the right places and that it is accompanied by the necessary infrastructure (such as health services, education and transport) to ensure it is well-supported. This is important to communities across the Borough of Tunbridge Wells.

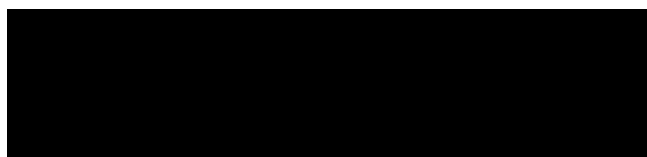
Adequate infrastructure delivered in a timely manner is almost universally raised as a concern by residents. The Pre-Submission Local Plan sets out comprehensive proposals; ensuring delivery against those proposals will be key. I will continue to make the case for this to be given priority by everyone involved, including developers and utility providers.

Communities also do not welcome speculative applications for new development in their neighbourhoods; a robust Local Plan plays an important role in guarding against this. Local planning authorities, such as Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, also have a critical role in seeking the best possible results for residents in such cases; it is good that concerns were listened to about further housing in East Capel and Tudeley, and I cannot see any reason why these plans should be revisited.

While this proposed Local Plan will provide thousands of new homes for the Borough, the Government's reforms – to housing targets, planning policy and local government – will add further expectations on local authorities and communities. It is more important than ever, in this context, that we continue to ensure new housing is well-planned, and supported with infrastructure, including green infrastructure, for the benefit of all residents.

I look forward to hearing the outcome of the consultation.

Yours sincerely



Mike Martin MP

Member of Parliament for Tunbridge Wells

www.mike-martin.co.uk - mike.martin.mp@parliament.uk